

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/689,241

Examiner

Michael P. Stafira

Applicant(s)

ZAIDI, SYED SHOAB HASAN

Art Unit

2877

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 1/9/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5,7-15,17-20,22-27 and 29-34.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 1/9/2006
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings were received on September 23, 2004. These drawings are approved by the examiner of record.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-5, 7-15, 17-20, 22-27, 29-34 are allowed over the prior art of record.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claim 1, the prior art fails to disclose or make obvious a method of minimizing background illumination while illuminating features formed on a substrate having the steps of dividing the light beam into at least two light rays and directing the at least two light rays from the lenslet array directly onto the substrate, said lenslet array having a focal plane substantially coincident with the surface of the substrate and having the width of said region and the width of the feature being substantially equal, and in combination with the other recited limitations of claim 1. Claims 2-5 are allowed by the virtue of dependency on the allowed claim 1.

Regarding claim 7, the prior art fails to disclose or make obvious a method of minimizing background illumination while illuminating features formed on a substrate having the steps of dividing the light beam into a plurality of light rays and directing each of said plurality of light rays from the lenslet array directly onto said substrate said lenslet array having a focal plane substantially coincident with the surface of the substrate; and adjacent lenslets of said lenslet array directing adjacent ones of said light rays onto adjacent features formed on said substrate

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and said width of said light rays and said width of said features being substantially equal, and in combination with the other recited limitations of claim 7. Claims 8-12 are allowed by the virtue of dependency on the allowed claim 7.

Regarding claim 13, the prior art fails to disclose or make obvious a method of measuring a property of features formed on a substrate having the steps of dividing the light beam into at least two light rays and directing the light rays from said lenslet array directly onto the substrate said lenslet array having a focal plane substantially coincident with the surface of the substrate; and said lenslets of said lenslet array each directing a respective one of said light rays onto a corresponding region of the substrate that includes a feature formed on the substrate, and the width of each light rays and the width of the corresponding feature being substantially equal, and in combination with the other recited limitations of claim 13. Claims 14-15, 17-20, 22 are allowed by the virtue of dependency on the allowed claim 13.


Regarding claim 23, the prior art fails to disclose or make obvious an apparatus for measuring a property of features formed on a substrate having a lenslet array comprising at least two lenslets, said lenslets of said lenslet array for dividing an incident light beam from said source into at least two light rays having a focal plane substantially coincidental with said surface of said substrate, said lenslets of said lenslet array each directing a respective one of said light rays onto a corresponding region of said substrate that includes a feature formed on said substrate said corresponding regions of said substrate illuminated by each light ray having a selected width substantially equal to said included feature, and in combination with the other recited limitations of claim 23. Claims 24-27, 29-34 are allowed by the virtue of dependency on the allowed claim 23.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael P. Stafira whose telephone number is 571-272-2430. The examiner can normally be reached on 4/10 Schedule Mon.-Thurs..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gregory Toatley can be reached on 571-272-2800 ext. 77. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Michael P. Stafira
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2877

March 8, 2006